REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Ref. No. KMD/FCST/4-2026/MO/01 ` **Date: 30TH December 2025**

CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR JANUARY 2026, REVIEW FOR DECEMBER 2025

1. HIGHLIGHTS

1.1. The Climate Outlook for January 2026

The outlook for January 2026 indicates that most parts of the country will experience predominantly dry weather conditions. However, a few areas, including the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Central and Southern Rift Valley, the Highlands East of the Rift Valley including Nairobi County, the Southeastern Lowlands, and the Coastal strip, are likely to receive occasional rainfall.

1.2. The Outlook for The Next Three Months (January – February- March 2026)

Sunny and dry weather conditions are expected to dominate most parts of the country. However, a few areas in the western sector, particularly around the Lake Victoria Basin and Southern Rift Valley, as well as the Highlands East of the Rift Valley including Nairobi County, the Coastal region and the Southeastern Lowlands, may experience occasional rainy days during the forecast period. Temperatures are expected to be warmer than average across most parts of the country.

1.3. Review of December 2025 Performance

December 2025 rainfall was unevenly distributed across the country. Above-average rainfall was mainly confined to parts of eastern Kenya, the central highlands, the Lake Victoria Basin, and sections of the Rift Valley, with stations such as Kitui, Kakamega, Kisumu, Eldoret, Nakuru, Nyeri, Embu and most stations in Nairobi recording enhanced rainfall. Near-average rainfall was observed at Nyahururu, JKIA, Moyale, Lodwar, Kericho, Kitale, Kabete, Machakos, and Kisii. Depressed rainfall prevailed over the Coast, northeastern Kenya, and parts of the southeastern lowlands, where most stations received less than 75% of their December long-term mean, with the driest conditions recorded at Lamu, Marsabit, Wajir, Garissa, and Msabaha.

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2. State of the Global Climate Drivers - January 2026

The rainfall outlook for January 2026 is largely informed by the observed and forecasted evolution of global sea surface temperature (SST) patterns and large-scale atmospheric circulation over the Pacific and Indian Oceans, together with associated Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) signals. Particular emphasis is placed on SST gradients across the equatorial Pacific and Indian Oceans, which are key drivers of regional climate variability.

Current analyses indicate that La Niña conditions persist in the tropical Pacific, with below-average SSTs over the central to eastern equatorial Pacific and warmer-than-average SSTs in the far western Pacific. The Niño3.4 index remains around −0.9 °C, consistent with a mature La Niña event, while trade winds and cloud patterns continue to reflect La Niña-like atmospheric coupling. Although short-term fluctuations in the SOI have occurred due to transient tropical activity, longer-term SOI values remain close to La Niña thresholds, supporting the continuation of La Niña into early 2026 before a return to neutral conditions later in the year.

Over the Indian Ocean, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) has returned to neutral following the cessation of the earlier negative IOD event. Near-average SSTs over the equatorial Indian Ocean are therefore expected to prevail through January, with the IOD projected to remain neutral through much of 2026.

Overall, the combination of persistent La Niña conditions in the Pacific and a neutral IOD suggests a tendency towards suppressed rainfall over parts of East Africa, including Kenya, during January 2026, although localized rainfall may still occur due to transient weather systems.

2.1 The Rainfall Outlook for January 2026

The forecast indicates that mainly sunny and dry conditions are expected to prevail over most parts of the country for much of the month. However, occasional rainfall is likely in a few areas, including parts of western Kenya, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Southern Rift Valley, the south-eastern lowlands, sections of the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley (including Nairobi County), and the southern parts of the coastal region. Figure 1 illustrates the expected rainfall pattern for January 2026.

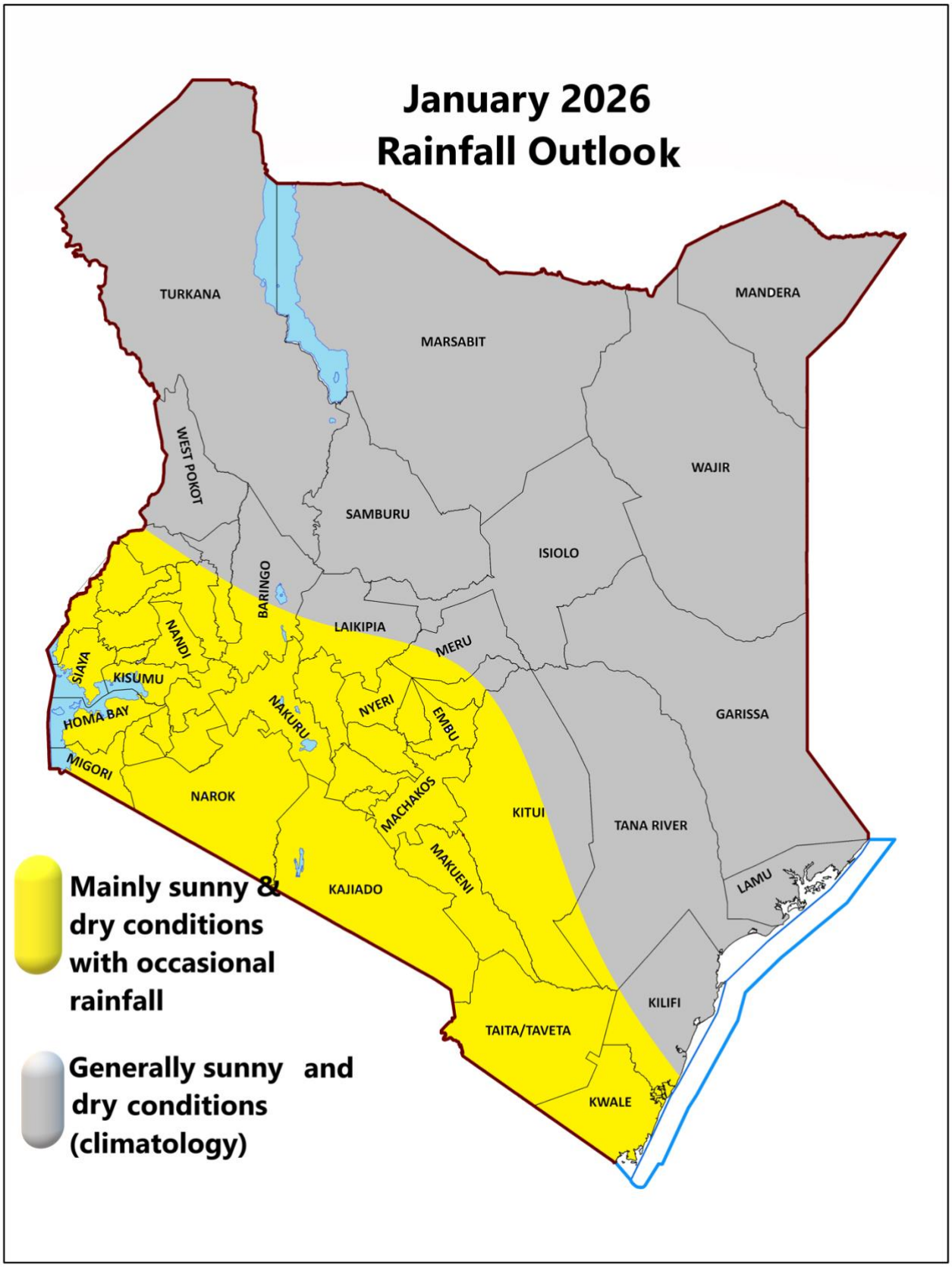

Figure 1: January 2026 Rainfall Forecast

2.2 Specific Outlook for Individual Areas

2.2.1 The Lake Victoria Basin, Highlands West of the Rift Valley and Central and South Rift Valley (Siaya, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori, Kisii, Nyamira, West Pokot, Trans Nzoia, Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Nandi, Laikipia, Nakuru, Narok, Kericho, Bomet, Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma and Busia counties): are likely to experience generally dry conditions for most of the month. However, Occasional light to moderate rainfall is expected during the month.

2.2.2 North-western Region (Turkana, West Pokot and Samburu): Sunny and dry conditions are expected in the month of January. High day time (Maximum) temperatures (30°C - 40°C) are expected to prevail in most places during the month.

2.2.3 Highlands East of the Rift Valley and Central Kenya (Nairobi, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Kiambu, Meru, Embu, Tharaka-Nithi and eastern parts of Laikipia): are likely to experience mainly sunny and dry conditions for most of the month. However, occasional light to moderate rainfall is expected during the month.

2.2.4 North-eastern Region (Wajir, Garissa and Isiolo, Mandera and Marsabit): are likely to experience sunny and dry conditions during the month. However, occasional light rainfall may be experienced over few areas during the month. High day time (Maximum) temperatures (30°C - 40°C) are expected to prevail throughout the month.

2.2.5 South-eastern Lowlands (Kajiado, Kitui, Makueni, Machakos and Taita Taveta): are likely to experience mainly sunny and dry conditions for most of the month. However, occasional light to moderate rainfall is expected during the month.

2.2.6 The Coastal Strip (Mombasa, Tana River, Kilifi, Lamu and Kwale): are likely to experience mainly sunny and dry conditions for most of the month. However, occasional light to moderate rainfall may be experienced during the month.

2.3 Potential impacts

The following are the likely impacts during the month of January 2026:

2.3.1 Agriculture and Food Security

The dry weather conditions expected during the month are likely to worsen the food security over the northern and parts of the eastern sectors of the country as availability of food, water and pasture

for human as well as livestock use is expected to decline further. The national and local governments as well as humanitarian organisations are advised to take necessary action to avert any loss of lives.

2.3.2 Disaster Management

The current dry conditions being experienced over the northern and parts of the eastern sectors of the country is expected to exacerbate. Relevant authorities are advised to put in place measures to avert any loss of lives and livelihoods. The limited pasture and water over the ASAL areas may lead to resource-based conflicts among the pastoral and farming communities.

2.3.3 Water Resources Management and Energy

The expected dry conditions in January 2026 may impact negatively on the major river catchment areas for the country's hydroelectric power generating dams. Careful reservoir management and continuous monitoring of water level is therefore recommended to ensure stable power supply. Water availability for both human and livestock needs is expected to decline further especially over the ASAL areas. Relevant authorities are advised to carry out water trucking to identify the most vulnerable members of the community and provide them with water. The public is advised to invest in water harvesting practices/techniques to harness the rainwater in areas where occasional rainfall is expected.

2.3.4 Environment

Human wildlife conflicts may escalate in the ASAL areas as wildlife migrate in search of water and pasture. Relevant authorities are advised to provide fodder and watering points to the wildlife to minimize such incidences. The dry conditions expected in January may result in reduced water levels in reservoirs, lakes, and ponds. It is also likely to lead to loss of wetlands and occurrence of wildfires in forests, parks and reserves. The public should therefore be alert while putting in place measures to conserve the environment.

2.3.5 Health

The high temperatures expected during the month of January in most parts of the country may lead to heat stress and heat related discomforts such as headaches and fatigue. The public is therefore advised to hydrate appropriately and avoid working in the open especially in the afternoons. Malnutrition related diseases are likely to increase over the northern sector of the country. Plans should therefore be put in place to provide food and food supplements to the most vulnerable communities.

3 CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR JANUARY-MARCH 2026

The outlook for the next three months indicates that most parts of the country are likely to experience sunny and dry weather conditions throughout the forecast period. However, a few areas over the western sector and especially those around the Lake Victoria region and Southern Rift Valley may experience occasional rainfall in January and February. In March, the rainfall is expected to spread to several places. This rainfall is expected to be near to below the January- February- March LTMs. The Highlands East of the Rift Valley and the South-eastern lowlands are expected to remain generally sunny and dry though a few days may experience rainfall that is expected to be near the January to March LTMs. The Coastal region is expected to be generally dry throughout the forecast period but may experience occasional rainfall during the forecast period which is expected to be near to below the January to March LTM. The northeast and northwest regions are expected to remain generally hot and sunny throughout the forecast period though a few areas may experience light rainfall especially in January.

Temperatures are expected to be warmer than average over the whole country. Daytime (Maximum) temperatures over northeast and northwest are expected to be high and may occasionally rise beyond 37^0C.

4 Rainfall Review for December 2025

4.1 Review of December 2025 Rainfall Performance

December marks the end of October to December rainfall season over most parts of the country. The month was characterized by sunny and dry weather conditions over several parts of the country. However, a few areas over the Southeastern lowlands, Western Kenya, Lake Victoria Basin, Central Highlands including Nairobi and Isiolo County experienced intermittent rainfall with some breaks during the month. This rainfall was near to below the December LTM except in Wilson Airport, Laikipia Air Base, Embu, Moi Air Base, Eldoret, Nakuru, Kakamega, Kisumu, Nyeri and Dagoretti where above average rainfall was recorded. The rest of the stations recorded near to below average rainfall with Mtwapa, Meru, Mandera, Garissa, Msabaha, Wajir, Marsabit and Lamu recording less than 40% of their December LTM

As of 30th December 2025, the highest monthly rainfall total, 301.4mm was recorded in Kitui Meteorological station followed by Suba Meteorological station with 267.2mm. Other stations that recorded above 200 mm include Ulanda Girls high School in Migori (263.4mm), Nyaroya also in Migori (242.5 mm), Kibabii University in Bungoma (223.7mm), Kyatune in Kitui (219.2 mm), Wilson Airport in Nairobi (215.9mm), Wote Nziu in Makueni (212.9 mm), Ikanga in Kitui (208.6 mm) and Kanga in Migori (207.0 mm). The rest of the stations recorded less than 200 mm with Lamu recording the least amount of rainfall 1.0 mm during the month. Several stations over Northeast and Northwest recorded no rainfall at all throughout the month. The rainfall was poorly distributed both in time and space

characterized by prolonged dry spells and isolated storms over the Southeastern lowlands, Central highlands including Nairobi County, Lake Victoria Basin and Western Kenya.

Figure 2a shows the December 2025 rainfall performance (%) while Figure 2b shows total rainfall amount recorded in December (Blue bars) in comparison with the December LTMs (Red bars).

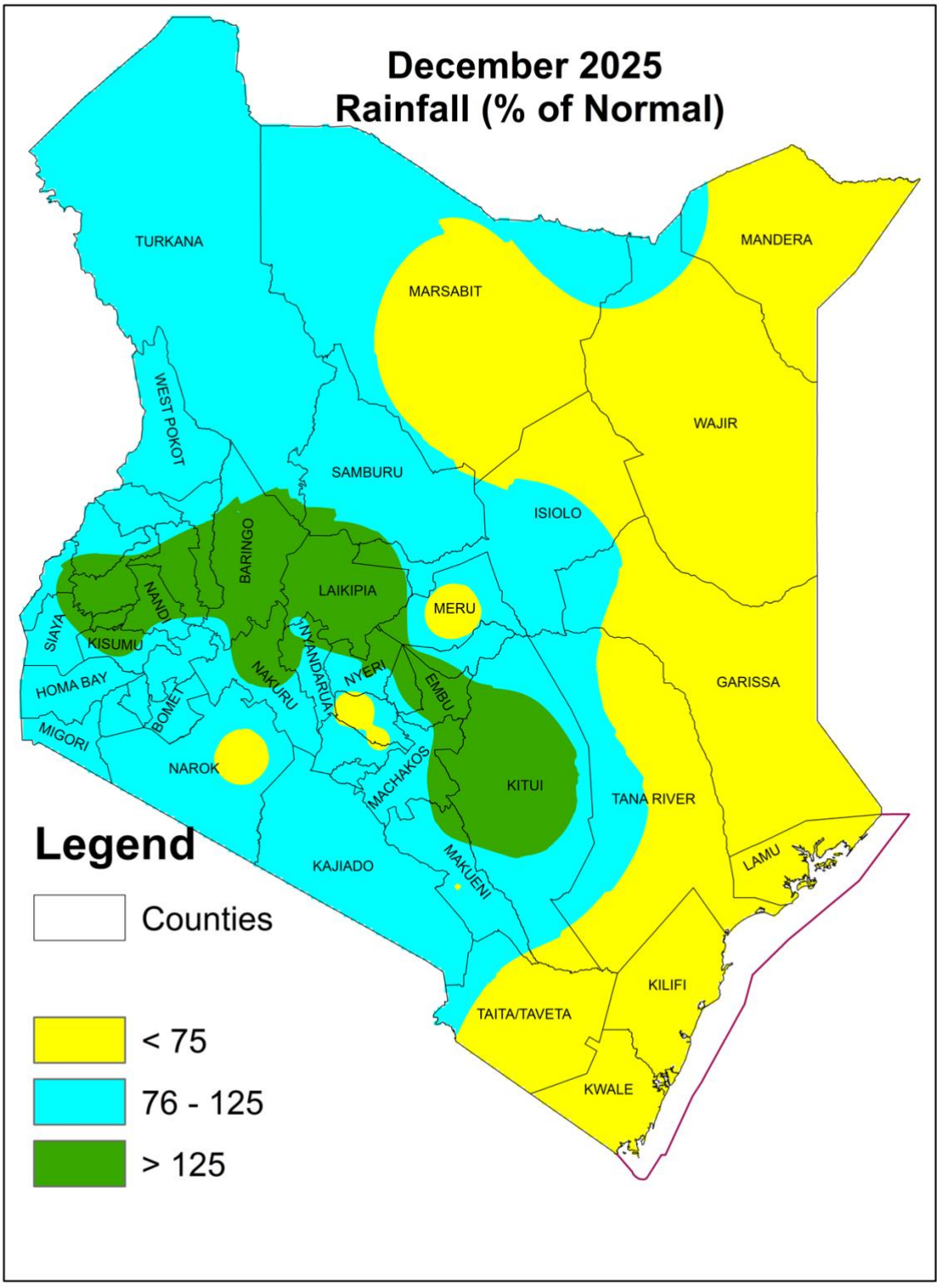

Figure 2a: December 2025 Rainfall Performance (%) Against December LTM

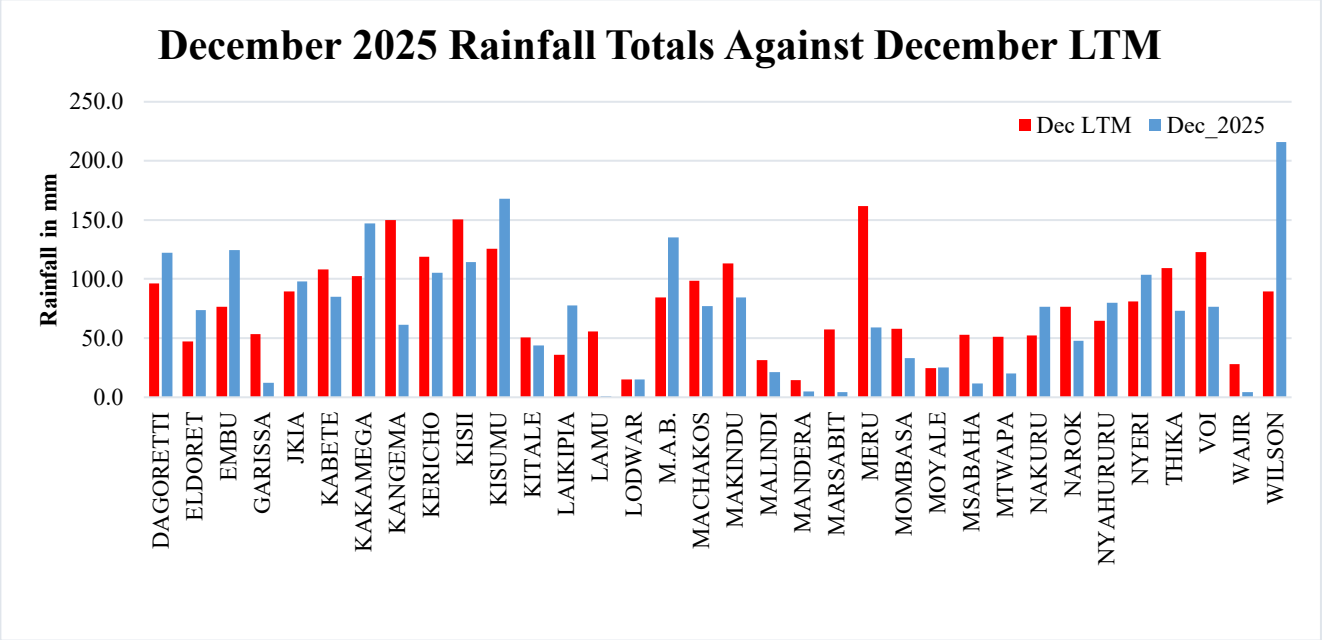

Figure 2b: December 2025 Monthly Rainfall Totals against December LTM

4.2 December 2025 Temperature Review

Maximum temperatures were warmer that average over the entire country with the highest positive anomalies being recorded over the Central and eastern sectors of the country as shown in Figure 3a.

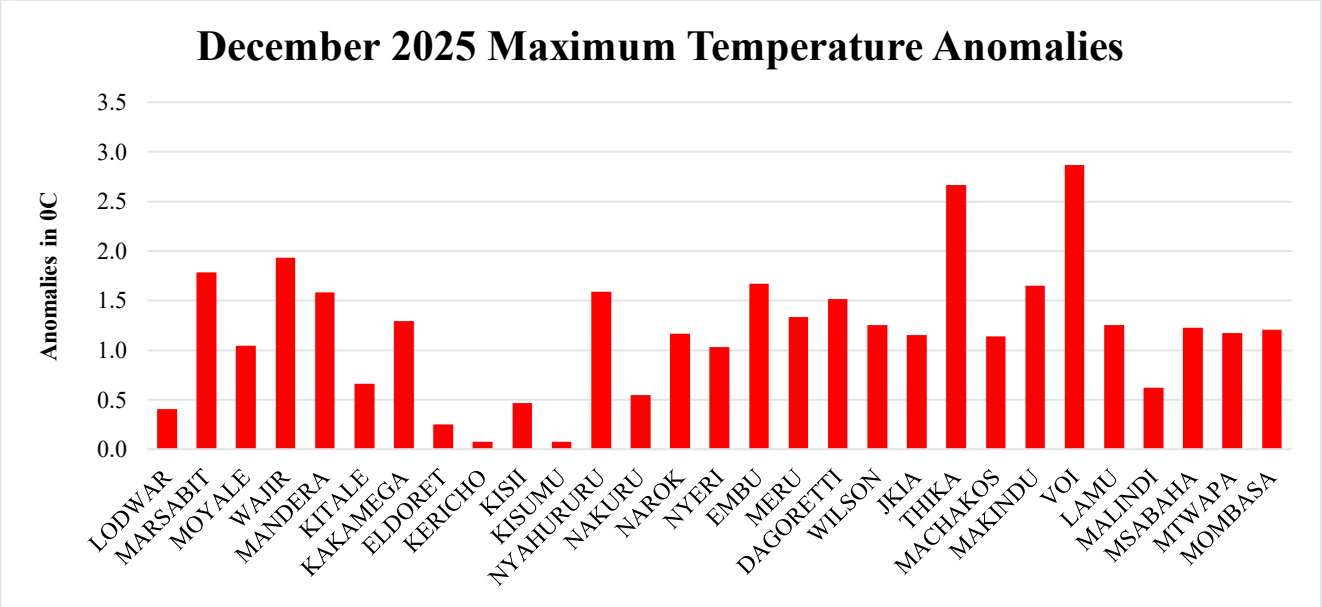

Figure 3a: December Maximum Temperature Anomalies

The highest monthly average maximum temperature: 36.6 ^{0}C was recorded in Mandera while Lodwar and Garissa occasionally recorded Maximum temperature above 38.^{0}C.

Minimum temperatures were also warmer than average over most parts of the country except in Nyahururu where cooler than average temperatures were recorded. The lowest monthly average maximum temperature: 10.7 ^{0}C was recorded in Nyahururu as shown in Figure 3b.

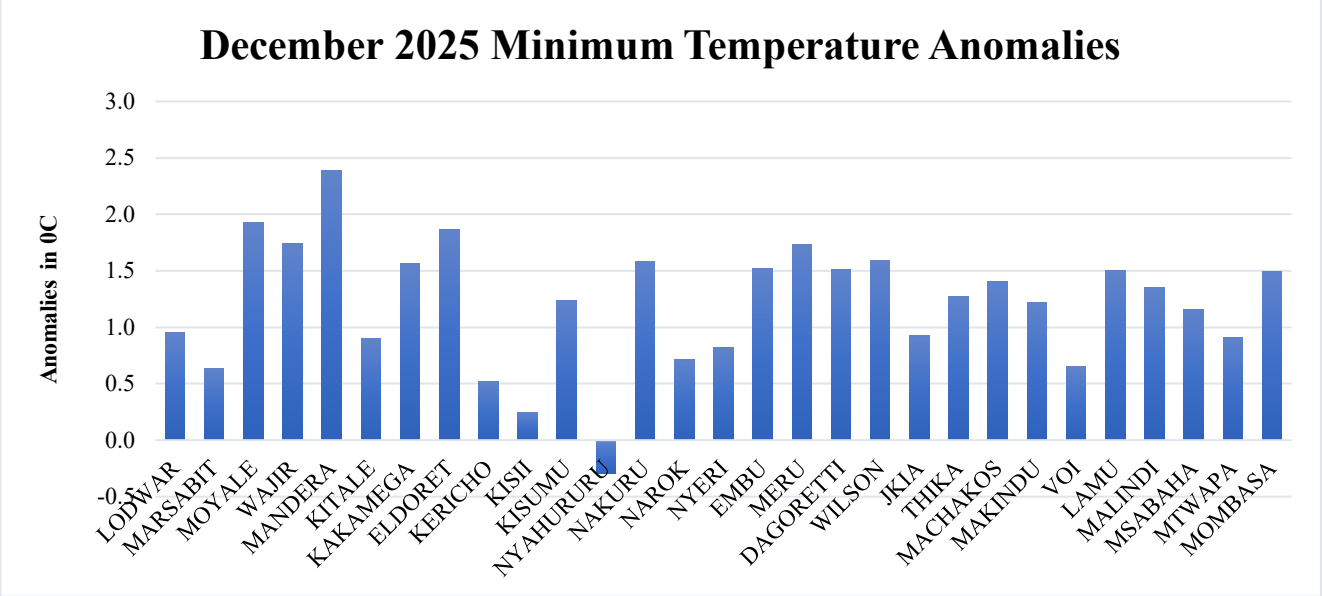

Figure 3b: December Minimum Temperature Anomalies

Note: Anomalies refer to the deviation from the mean. Positive anomalies indicate that the temperature was higher than normal, while negative anomalies indicate that the temperature was lower than normal.

NB: This outlook should be used together with the 24-hour, 5-day, 7-day, special forecasts and regular updates/advisories issued by this Department as well as Weekly and Monthly County forecasts developed and availed by County Meteorological Offices.

KEY OF SCIENTIFIC WORDS USED

Rainfall performance is generally categorized as follows:

- Below 75% of the LTM – Below Normal (Depressed) rainfall
- Between 75% and 125% of the LTM - Near normal rainfall
- Above 125% of the LTM – Above Normal (Enhanced) rainfall

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